

1 Welcome and Opening worship

Following a welcome from Revd Keith Jackson, the team from Central Baptist Church led the opening worship. Keith then spoke from Acts 2:1-13 recalling the original day of Pentecost drawing out how togetherness matters, how the fire represents gifts which we often don't see ourselves, as an individual or as church, but is seen by others and that the crowds at the time were amazed. He called for the churches to live so that the City of Chelmsford is amazed.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Nigel Bolitho.

35 were present from the following 18 churches and organisations:

All Saints, Springfield; Broomfield Road Evangelical Church; Central Baptist Church; Chelmsford 24-7 prayer; Chelmsford Cathedral; Chelmsford CRESS; Chelmsford Foodbank; Chelmsford Street Pastors; Christ Church URC; Essex YMCA; Hall Street Methodist Church; Life Church; North Avenue URC; Oasis; Redeemed Christian Church of God; Skylark; Society of Friends; St Andrew's, Sandon.

3 Minutes of 2016 AGM were agreed as a correct record.

4 Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.

5 Reports

In general the reports had been circulated prior to, and in limited numbers at, the meeting and were not read out but formed a backdrop to the proceedings noted below.

a Chairman

Revd Keith Jackson's report was noted. See Appendix 1

b Treasurer's report

Robin Stevens identified some aspects from the account documents which had been circulated previously, Appendix 2. The Procession of Witness had cost just £30 more in 2016 than 2015. But receipts in 2016 are about £1000 less than the year before despite seeking subscriptions in a variety of ways. This work will continue.

c Adoption of accounts for year ending 31st December 2016

The accounts were adopted 'nem con'.

d Approval of subscriptions – Robin proposed that subscriptions for both 2017 and 2018 remain the same as last year as detailed in the Treasurer's report. This will allow the treasurer to begin collecting subscriptions for 2018 in January 2018. This was agreed 'nem con'.

e Independent Examiner

Caroline Robinson (Chelmsford Cathedral) was thanked for examining the CTiC accounts and reappointed as Independent Examiner.

f CRESS –

Rob Saggs began saying that CRESS delivers £2.2m of Social value with support to 35 lives of whom 6 went into employment. This was undertaken with the help of 6,600 hours of volunteering. He told of interviewing those in prison to help avoid reoffending. One such had said that living away from home would be the biggest help. This was done with CRESS and this person has now been with Wingspan for 1 year. Rob then spoke of the purchase of the new building at 200 London Road

which will have interview rooms, a disability suite, and is currently undergoing renovation. He explained that they hope to vacate the premises in George Street which he expected to have its own costs. Rob expressed heart-felt thanks for all the support that CHESS had received.

- g **YMCA** – Andy Drake conveyed his enthusiasm for their work amongst young people in Chelmsford and indeed beyond in Essex. He said that they are managing to hold their own with income and are making an impact on 1000 lives per year. 50 have been housed and they contact young people via Festivals and schools. Andy said how rewarding he found working in complex and sometimes apparently chaotic situations. He expressed that's for the support that they receive from different Christian organisations in Chelmsford. He then pointed out that Essex is big and there is a lot of need particularly as it seems youngsters have less prospects than previously.

h **Others**

Foodbank – Roy Brackley began by thanking Kevin Butler for his contributions. Foodbank have 100 volunteers. These are willing folk but can find it difficult and under pressure when people present without being referred. So they are looking for more referrers. Roy referred to the 6 distribution centres, stocked with 1 tonne of food and one warehouse stocked with 5 tonnes of food. Last year they fed 3500 people which included 1000 children. He expressed Foodbank's thanks both to the volunteers and the individuals who donate the majority of the food. He then described the 4families scheme in which families are provided with meals during the school holidays when there are no free school meals and the struggle to feed children can be most acute. These had also highlighted a need to help a number of families cook and prepare food which is being addressed in their 'Eat Well Spend Less' programme.

Christian Aid – In addition to his report, Appendix 3, Robin Stevens pointed out that Christian Aid grew out of a joint response of the churches to provide for refugees 72 years ago. For the last 60 years there have been Christian Aid collections which have been used to support the 3rd World. The figures for the 2017 collection were not yet ready but Robin highlighted a trend which he illustrated. 2016 had seen a collection in Chelmsford circa £30,000 but for 2013 a corresponding figure was £40,000. He anticipated that less emphasis will be given to door to door collections and more to fund-raising events. He referred to the ongoing needs which should encourage our efforts in this direction.

Reports had also been submitted prior to the meeting from Good Friday Procession of Witness, Appendix 4, Chelmsford Street Pastors, Appendix 5 and Chelmsford 24-7 Prayer, Appendix 6.

- 6 There were no further **Questions, Observations or Comments** presented to the meeting.

7 **Revocation of old and adoption of new constitution**

In opening this item Keith Jackson explained that there exist some anomalies in the current constitution, citing the support explicit for Christian Aid and the specific relationship with CHESS contained therein. He had written a paper, Appendix 7, on this which had previously been circulated.

Margaret Watchorn saying that a constitution is ideally simple and clear but the 2 are not equivalent. She asked for the chair to desist putting the revision to the meeting on

the grounds that the meeting was not empowered to change the constitution, at that time, because member churches had not had adequate notice to agree. Margaret's notes are appended to the end of these minutes, Appendix 8.

This was put to a vote and the meeting, by majority, held the latter view.

The chair suggested setting up a committee to examine the matter in more detail. He also asked that churches do respond to such consultation in due course.

8 Nominations and Elections of Officers & Standing Committee members

The following elections were made by the meeting nem con:

Chair	Revd Keith Jackson, Life Church
Vice-Chair	Pastor Ade Adayi, Redeemed Christian Church of God
Treasurer	Robin Stevens, Christian Aid and All Saints, Springfield
Secretary	Richard Cecil, Street Pastors and St Andrew's, Sandon

9 Future Developments

- a **Pastors' Care** – Keith outlined plans to have a regular breakfast for Pastors to be able to get to know one another, have fellowship and share their concerns.
- b **Celebrations** – Keith spoke of an time of celebration in the autumn when the Christians of Chelmsford can worship together.
- c **Civic Breakfast** – This is to a time when civic and business figures can share a time together and the Christians of the City can express their concern and care for public figures.

10 There followed a time of **Singing and Worship**.

11 The meeting then **adjourned** for: –

- a **Refreshments**
- b **Fellowship**
- c **Viewing of displays**

Thanks go to **Central Baptist Church** for their hospitality and for others who had contributed towards the tea, coffee and cakes following the meeting, and the opportunity for fellowship and discussion of current activities and projects.



Minutes of Christians Together in Chelmsford
Annual General Meeting
held on 4th June 2017, 3:00 pm
at Central Baptist Church, Victoria Road South

Appendix 1 – Chair's Report

Firstly mention must be given to the amazing work that Carol Smith did in this role. She has been a truly inspirational chair and one of the reasons why I first became involved in CTIC. When Carol informed me of her departure I was filled with trepidation in terms of the challenges involved in taking over the role.

To accommodate this change, dates for a missions trips to South Africa had to be rearranged to allow me to be at the March of Witness this year, and I'm grateful for the flexibility of the churches we work with there.

To this point, as acting chair, I have been meeting with a few church leaders and trying to build bridges between us all. It seems the overarching question is: apart from the March of Witness what does CTIC do? It's a great question. Historically CHESS came out of CTIC and we have had a close relationships with Christian Aid Week, YMCA, Food Bank, Street Pastors, and latterly, 24/7 Prayer and Passion Play Chelmsford.

It does seem that there is a room to develop the role of CTIC across the churches through relationship and shared mission. Given the state of our nation, the upheavals politically and acts of abhorrent terrorism, there is a need for a strong united Church. We shall presenting some new initiatives at the AGM with a view to moving CTIC forward in these challenging times.

My thanks to the CTIC Standing Committee and for their support, especially Richard Cecil, Robin Stephens and Pastor Ade Ajayi for their help during this transitional period.

I would appreciate your prayers at this time.

Keith Jackson
Acting Chair, CTiC



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Appendix 2

**Finance Report for the year to 31st December 2016
for the Annual Meeting in June 2017**

Attached to this report are:

- a list of the subscriptions received from the Churches and associate members to date
- the receipts and payments account for the year 2016, which have been independently examined.

The subscriptions for 2016 were called in after the AGM, when it was agreed to maintain the same level of contributions, namely:

Larger Churches (over 100 members)	£95
Medium Churches (50-100 members)	£58
Smaller Churches (less than 50 members)	£19
Associate members	£30

I tried to do this more effectively by email and I gave the option of paying subscriptions by cheque or bank transfer. This was not entirely successful and a number of Churches have not yet paid their contribution for 2016.

The major expense during the year was the Procession of Witness and the total cost was £2,996.

As a result, the balance in the bank at the end of 2016 reduced from £5,983.88 to £4,413.67 in the Community Account and increased by 28p to £529.04 in the Business Savings Account.

I am grateful to Caroline Robinson, the Chapter Treasurer at Chelmsford Cathedral, for acting as independent examiner once again.

Proposals

Subscriptions

In the light of these accounts, I propose that the subscriptions are kept at the same level for 2017. Further I propose that we maintain this level of subscription for 2018 so that the subscriptions can be called in earlier in the year.

Robin Stevens – treasurer – 28 May 2017



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Contributions received

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Large Churches				
All Saints', Springfield	95	95	95	95
All Saints, Writtle	95	95	95	
Ascension with All Saints Kings Road, Chelmsford	58	58	58	95
Central Baptist Church	95	95	95	
Chelmsford Cathedral	95	95	95	95
Christ Church URC	95	95	95	95
Christian Growth Centre / Skylark Church	—	95	95	95
Church of the Holy Name	—	95	95	
Holy Name Moulsham Lodge	95			
Holy Trinity, Springfield	95	95	95	95
Life Church	—	95	95	95
Meadgate Church	95	95	95	
Moulsham Lodge Methodist Church	95	95		
Our Lady Immaculate	95	95	95	
St Augustine's Springfield Roman Catholic Community	—	95	95	95
St Mary, Great Baddow	95	95	95	95
St Michael & All Angels Galleywood	95	95	95	
The Salvation Army	95	95	95	
Trinity Methodist Church	95	95	95	
Medium Churches				
Blessed Sacrament	30	30		
Broomfield Methodist	19	19	58	58
Broomfield Road Evangelical Church	—	—	58	58
Chelmsford Community Church	58	58	58	
Church of Our Saviour	58	58	58	
Oasis Church Chelmsford	58	58	58	58
Redeemed Christian Church of God	58	19	19	58
Springfield Park Baptist	58	58		58
St Andrew's Chelmsford	58	58	58	58
St Andrew's Sandon	19	58	58	58
St Augustine's North Springfield	—			
St John's Moulsham	58	58	58	
St Luke's Moulsham	58	58	58	
St Mary & St Leonard Broomfield	58	58	58	58
St Paul's Great Baddow	58	58	58	58
St Michael & All Angels, Roxwell	58	58	58	
Widford St Mary	58	58	58	58
Small Churches				
Danbury URC	19	19	19	19
Great Baddow URC	19	19	19	19
Hall Street Methodist Church	19	19	19	
Howe Green URC	19	19	19	19
Little Baddow URC	19	19	19	
Little Waltham URC	19	19	19	19
North Avenue URC	19	19	19	19
North Springfield Baptist Church	19	19	19	19
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	19	19	19	
Writtle URC	19	19	19	19
Associate members				
Renew Counselling	30	30	30	30
The Diocesan House of Retreat	30	30	30	30
YMCA Chelmsford	30	30	30	30
24/7 Prayer				30
Totals	£2,432	£2,717	£2,631	£1,688

Robin Stevens

Appendix 3 Christian Aid Committee



Report to the Annual Meeting 4 June 2017



The Christian Aid committee's financial year ends on 30th September and so this report covers the year ending in September 2016.

Christian Aid Week 2016

Our thanks are due as ever to Peter Batey for the energy and enthusiasm that he puts into masterminding the Chelmsford door to door collection. Some churches which are unable to collect door to door (perhaps because they find it difficult to find collectors) organise other fund raising events. The following totals include all sums raised in Christian Aid Week.

2012: £39,741 2013: £40,894 2014: £33,250 2015: £33,884 **2016: £30,650**

Events

Trinity Methodist Church held a stall at the Cathedral market and All Saints Church, Springfield held an Easter Breakfast. These raised:

2015: £330 **2016: £557**

Lunches

These continue to provide useful funds and thanks are due to Christ Church URC and Trinity Methodist Church for arranging regular lunches.

2012: £1,643 2013: £1,492 2014: £1,106 2015: £1,305 **2016: £417**

Donations

Churches and individuals respond from time to time with funds raised or given. Sometimes they are given in memory at a funeral but no such funds were received during the year.

2012: £379 2013: £1,202 2014: £850 2015: £634 **2016: £71**

Tesco

From time to time Tescos allow us to collect outside one of their stores on a Saturday. One such event was held in September 2015.

2015: £1,433 **2016: £337**

The total raised, therefore, during the year up to 30 September 2016, to help relieve poverty, was **£32,032**.

Other sums may have been raised by churches or individuals that were paid straight to Christian Aid. It's helpful if I can be informed of all sums raised so that this annual report reflects a true picture of the Chelmsford's support for the vital work of Christian Aid.

Robin Stevens - *Chairman and Treasurer*
rmsrobin@icloud.com



Minutes of Christians Together in Chelmsford
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Appendix 4 – Good Friday Procession of Witness Report

In 2017 Revd March Meatcher, our main speaker, suggested the theme , “Someone in the Crowd” and went on to give an inspiring talk on that theme calling for those interested to come forward and collect a booklet called ‘Why Jesus?’ Thank you Mark.

The marches set off from the five points around the town, and the March script and March service script was prepared for CTiC by Revd Keith Jackson. Pastor Ade Ajayi started the service and we were led in worship by the musicians from the Vicars’ band from Great Baddow. The Mayor, Councillor Patricia Hughes gave us the bible reading from Matthew 27:27-44. A youth choir from the Redeemed Christian Church of God sang, Jackie Arnot led our prayers and then Mark Meatcher spoke. Revd Keith Jackson then concluded the service with thanks and an invitation was given for anyone who wanted prayer.

An estimate is that a large part of 1000 people were present for the service in the town centre. All in all, it was a very inspiring event and a great witness to the unity of Christians across Chelmsford.

Additional thanks are due to Steve Roberts and his team for the professionalism with the staging and sound system, Life Church for the loan of chairs, St John’s ambulance for their services, the team of stewards, the signers organised by Revd Denis Hartley.

If there is any feedback from the March, please do let the members of the committee know, so that any improvements can be made. We continued our policy of deliberately keeping the time of the service to 45 minutes and this seemed to be appreciated by the people who spoke to me after the event.

Richard Cecil
Secretary to March Organising Committee 2017

Appendix 5 – Chelmsford Street Pastors

In recent months the 2 coordinators of Street Pastors, Gail Butler and Di Hodgkinson, announced their intention to step back from a leadership role. Thankfully they intend to remain available for patrols. So there is a hand-over process in progress. Kevin Killin and Judy Cecil have joined the Steering Committee with a view that along with Suzanne, they begin to flesh out ways of working together in that role.

We have had a number of social gatherings during 2016, which give us the opportunity to use different church venues and engage with their pastoral staff, invite local dignitaries to join us, and share our own news and chatter over tea and coffee. In April, we met at Trinity Methodist and had the opportunity to hear from Mike Lewis, their new minister, who came to join us briefly; Terry Brown of Sandon St Andrew's was our host in September, when our latest batch of recruits were commissioned (Ruth, Sarah, Martin, Sue, Marianne, Paula and Melony – Street Pastors, and Alison and Jenny as Home Prayers) with both the Mayor and Chief Constable in attendance; and in December, we gathered at an old haunt, Guy Harlings, while Nick Henshall spent many minutes in our company.

We continue to plan these essential gatherings to remind us of our rich and diverse ecumenical background!

We have continued to patrol on several Wednesdays, mainly in school holidays, to provide a presence on the streets for the thousands of students who are attracted by the low cost drinks, which are not on offer at weekends. We also patrol each Saturday and alternate Fridays.

We have settled well into our new night time base at Cables House, adjacent to Life Church, which gives far closer access to the main hotspots in the city centre.

We continue our partnership with the police and the City Council through the Safer Chelmsford Partnership and the City Centre Liaison Group. Chelmsford City Council was successful in retaining the Purple Flag Award, which is given to towns and cities that provide high quality evening and night time cultural activities and Street Pastors were invited to a celebration event. The teams have developed a good working relationship with the City's Triage station and staff, which is found in the High Street on all Saturday nights, and some Fridays. This is soon to be replaced by an SOS bus, to be manned by Open Road volunteer staff, so we will report on that development next year!

The Steering Committee, with your approval, was joined by David Parker, Julian and Gerry Wilkinson, Gerry acting as secretary and Susanne Killin. David takes over the role of Treasurer and Gerry as secretary. Their commitment to our work is greatly appreciated.

We have had some conversations with a local minister, largely at their initiative, asking whether they might be able to act as a chaplain to the Street Pastors. This has not developed as they are now moving to another part of the country.

We have not trained anyone this year, a situation that must not prevail but hope to plan further training sessions in the coming months.

We always thank God for the good links we have with the City and Town Councils, Police and Club staff and for new contacts made. In God's strength, may we continue to grow this ministry in Chelmsford.

Judy Cecil based on the 2016 Annual Report



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Appendix 6 – Chelmsford 24-7 Prayer

Chelmsford 24-7 is broadly aligned with 24-7 Prayer, an interdenominational Christian movement of prayer, mission and justice.

It works closely with and is an associate member of CTIC. It is led by David Gilbey and a steering group from different churches.

We are a catalyst for greater unity through prayer between Christians within the 100 or so churches and other Christian groups/ organisations in the Chelmsford District. We encourage the pursuit of 24-7 and other prayer initiatives.

We facilitate several regular Prayer Spaces each month at venues around the city where Christians and non-Christians alike are invited to encounter God and pray over our city, our nation and world. There are different prayer stations set up to encourage prayer and people can come and go as their time allows.

This year there have also been Prayer Walks in the city. These have included a city centre walk on the first Saturday of each month, some Friday early-evening Walks, in support of our Street Pastors when they cannot go out and a Prayer Walk around the perimeter of the Prison in partnership with Prison Fellowship.

We have just been involved in the Thy Kingdom Come global prayer (from 25th May – 4th June) which is an initiative of Justin Welby to pray for people to come to know Jesus. This has included, on 25th May, working with the Christian Police Association, a Prayer Walk around Police HQ and 48 hours of prayer in Chelmsford based at Meadgate Church from 8 am 2nd June – 8 am 4th June.

We have also recently purchased a gazebo, to use as a Prayer Tent at outdoor events. This has already seen an outing to the 1st May Diocesan Retreat House open day in Pleshey.

A Prayer Support Team meets on the last Thursday of every month at Skylark Church (formally CGC), led by Sue Gibson, a member of the steering committee. This provides consistent prayer support for the ongoing vision and development. For updates and information visit Chelmsford24-7.org

Prayer is powerful and united prayer is changing our city! We are excited about what God has done this year and believing more is yet to come as we continue to unite and pray for revival in our City!

Sue Gibson

Appendix 7 – Proposal to Change CTiC Constitution, a rationale

Over the last few months we have been taking a fresh look at our constitution. Whilst, for most of us, this is not a document we work with regularly, it does need to reflect the needs of the Christians in Chelmsford in the communities that they serve.

Several anomalies now exist with the current constitution that need addressing. Some of these are our reason for existence express support for one, and only one, Christian charity. It also ties the CTiC committee to being responsible for the annual administration and organisation of this charity's fundraising efforts in Chelmsford and the surrounding district. Whilst its aims are noble and we would be supporting each of it, it has not been a specific remit of the Standing Committee to involve itself in this way in praxis for some time. We commend Robin Stephens for his efforts over the years.

The fundamental question around this is why do we exist for the benefit of one Christian group only?

How we nominate officers and their length of service is also an issue. Currently a Chair and Vice Chair can stand a maximum of three years, that term of office being renewed each year. Our new proposal is that the incumbents be nominated for a three year term without needing to reaffirm this annually. This would allow these officers the opportunity to bring change and direction over a three year period without having to stand for re-election annually. This would also make it easier for these officers to commit their time and energy without feeling this is having a limited effect. Further the wording around the Secretary and Treasurer sees them as honorary positions for five year periods. Whilst this, on the face of it, makes no difference they are in fact not honorary positions. To tidy this up it is proposed that they lose the 'honorary' title and also stand for a three year period, not the current five years.

Furthermore, CHESS, was established by CTiC in 1996. We applaud its work in our city. Constitutionally the Chair of CTiC, or representative of CTiC, are automatically co-opted onto the Executive Committee of CHESS and CHESS is held accountable to CTiC in our constitution. Whilst we enjoy a good relationship with CHESS there is a question of legalities of a registered charity being held accountable by a voluntary group that is not a charity itself. In praxis this clause (Article 9) is not workable.

We have also proposed new reasons for our existence based around Relationship and Mission. This is more in line with the flavour of Christians Together in England and gives a remit to foster the same in our City.

At the heart of these proposed changes is a desire for CTiC to become more rational and missional in its approach. We should be aiming to be a facilitating group not a governmental group.

We are not claiming that these changes are perfect but are working towards CTiC's transformation to be a relevant voice in our city. We hope these changes will meet with the approval of the AGM.

*Rev Keith Jackson
(Acting Chair).*

Appendix 8 – CTiC AGM – 4 June 2017 Speaking note on proposal to adopt a new constitution

I can see why changes are needed to the current constitution – particularly because it no longer reflects the way the relationships with Christian Aid and CHESSE have developed. I am grateful to the Acting Chairman for his recent explanation of these points.

The proposed new constitution appears to be a very good draft for discussion, but with some important areas needing clarification and possible revision before it is ready to be ratified.

But I believe that there is one point which needs to be considered before all others – and that is whether this meeting has the power to agree the proposed changes to the constitution.

Those proposed changes include changes to how member churches should be represented. Article 10 of the current constitution says that certain key parts of the constitution (including Article 3 on membership and representation) can be amended by CTiC 'provided that the proposed amendments have been submitted to, and approved by, the majority of churches and other participating organisations in membership at the time of the AGM.'

The proposed new constitution was circulated to member churches as part of the papers for the AGM just over two weeks ago; an explanatory note which dealt with only some of the proposed changes was circulated just 4 days before the AGM. Churches have not been asked to approve the agreed changes in advance of the AGM, and the amount of notice given (over a holiday period) was anyway inadequate for them to be able to respond as required under the current constitution. Consequently I do not believe that this AGM has the power to agree the proposed changes.

I would therefore like to suggest that the resolution to amend the constitution at this AGM should be withdrawn before it is put to the vote. This will allow further time for the proposed changes on representation, meetings and voting to be explained to the member churches and commented upon before they are asked to agree them.

If the Committee is unwilling to withdraw the proposed constitution before it is put to the vote, I would request that I be allowed further opportunity to raise other queries, points of substance and detail on it before we vote on it.

Margaret Watchorn North Avenue URC